salinity tolerant crops; technology for de-salinisation; use of remote sensing in natural resource management; application of computer system in agriculture for technology transfer in extension services; etc.

The Congress also had a Satellite Symposium on Agrobiodiversity Conservation which recommended harmonization of plant breeders' rights and farmers' rights which will facilitate an equitable sharing of benefits of plant genetic resources as well as seeds of modern varieties.

Frequent Postponement of National Games

2261. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for postponing the National Games frequently;

(b) whether frequent postponement of the Games will not reflect the incapability of the country to hold National Games; and

(c) whether Government will take-up with Government of Karnataka for its failure to hold the National Games?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN): (a) The National games are allotted to states by the Indian Olympic Association. The decision to postpone the National Games scheduled to be held in the State of Karnataka has been taken by the Indian Olympic Association in consultation with the Karnataka Government and the State Olympic Association due to non readiness of the necessary infrastructure for holding the games as per international norms. The Govt. of Karnataka have informed that their efforts for mobilisation of funds from sponsors had not yielded results necessitating the postponement of the Games.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Since the Central Government was not a party to the decision to hold the National Games in Karnataka, it is not possible to intervene in this matter.

Expenditure on advertisements by Railways

2262. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:
(a) the amount spent by the Railways on advertisements in the national dailies regarding inauguration of gauge conversion projects and other Railway functions during the last six months;

(b) whether this expenditure was necessary keeping in view the resource crunch being faced by the Railways; and

(c) the justification for one page advertisement in various newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The total amount spent by the Railways on advertisements for publicity of various railway schemes and projects during the current financial year is Rs. 3,32,89,633 approx.

(b) Railways is the singular organisation in the country with the largest public interface. New projects in Railways like gauge conversion, introduction of new trains, etc. have relevance far beyond mere rail transportation as the potential factors affecting the socio-economic life of the people. It is therefore considered imperative to disseminate such information to people at large in order to enlighten them on the possible impact on their socio-economic life as a result of these projects for exploiting the emerging opportunities. While the control on advertisement in Railways is kept within the budget allocations the relevance of such advertisement is considered essential for an organisation that touches the people's life in more ways than one.

(c) One page advertisements in newspapers in normally limited to only major events/ projects having national relevance and in such cases proper care is taken to restrict the number of the publications so as to keep the expenditure within the available funds.

Non-utilisation of Sports funds by States and U.Ts

2263. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: